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## Bonn Checks Report of Smuggling Of Atomic Technology to Pakistan

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BONN, May 4 — The Cologne prosecutor's office has begun an investigation of a West German company that is suspected of illegally exporting plans that may have helped Pakistan build a uranium enrichment plant. Such a plant could be used in making nuclear weapons.

According to sources in the prosecutor's office, investigators last week raided the Cologne offices of the company, Leybold-Heraeus, and its factory outside Frankfurt. The investigation centers on Otto Heilingbrunner, a director of the concern, and Gotthard Lerch, a senior executive who is said to have left it in 1985, officials said.

Leybold-Heraeus, which employs some 5,000 people in West Germany, does contracting work for the Urenco consortium, which runs high-speed centrifuges to produce low-grade uranium. The consortium is owned by Britain, West Germany and the Netherlands.

The two executives, according to sources close to the investigation, are suspected of delivering blueprints acquired surreptitiously from Urenco to the Swiss concern Metallwerke in Buchs in order to produce autoclaves used to heat uranium hexafluoride, which then passes through centrifuges in an enrichment plant.

### Swiss Seize Equipment

In early 1986, the Swiss customs authorities seized three autoclaves that had been produced by Metallwerke as well as blueprints involved in their fabrication. According to an article in the West German magazine Stern, some of the components had already been smuggled to Pakistan.

Executives at Leybold-Heraeus and Metallwerke had no comment on the

Cologne investigation. But Hans Morhauer, an executive at Uranit, the West German branch of Urenco, said Leybold-Heraeus had acquired the blueprints in the course of making a bid that was not accepted.

"They were in possession of the documents quite legally," Mr. Morhauer said. "The documents that were misused were not classified secrets, nor did they have any other classification. They are used for uranium enrichment and are on export lists."

Abdel Qader Khan, a scientist who is widely described as the head of Pakistan's nuclear weapons program, once worked for a Dutch firm involved with Urenco's centrifuge facility at Almelo in the Netherlands. In 1974, he abruptly returned to Pakistan and resigned his job, and helped develop the nation's uranium enrichment plant at Kahuta outside Islamabad.

In a recent interview with a British newspaper, Mr. Khan said Pakistan had a nuclear device more powerful than the one exploded by India in 1974. The Pakistani Government later denied his assertion.

Western diplomats say Pakistan has an active network of scientists in Western Europe seeking components and special metals associated with Islamabad's nuclear program. "They have a whole shopping list," one diplomat said. "It's a Europe-wide operation."

Pakistan's Ambassador to West Germany, Abdul Waheed, described the reports about the Cologne investigation as "a lot of spy stories and cock-and-bull stories."

"It's smearing Pakistan's name," the Ambassador said in an interview, reiterating his Government's position that its nuclear program is only intended for peaceful purposes.